THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Sealdah Station is already connected with Howrah Station *via* link line between Belanagar and East Cabin (Rajchanderapur). Two pairs of Up and Down local trains are running between Sealdah and Howrah stations.

Trains from the Opposite Directions on same Track

1174. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two trains—one the Jammu Mail and the other a goods train carrying fuel, were barely 500 metres apart when their drivers saw each other from the opposite directions on the same track and stopped in Hiranagar (Jammu), on 12th October, 2002;

(b) whether an inquiry has been instituted into the incident and the report received;

(c) if so, what are its findings; and

(d) whether installation of anti-collision devices as a train safety, which would start from next year, would be helpful in such eventualities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. On 12.10.2002, on Pathankot-Jammu Tawi single line section of Firozepur Division, Northern Railway, the driver of 4034 Dn Jammu Mail stopped the train between Down starter and Advanced starter signals of Ghagwal station after seeing the Up Goods train which stopped near Up Outer signal. The two trains stopped safely within a distance of more than 800 metres. The block instruments were not working and the trains were despatched on 'paper line clear'.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Committee of Officers, inquiring into the accident concluded that it occurred due to 'wrong issue of authority to proceed'.

(d) Anti-collision device is at present in trial stage.

Trains Cancellations due to closure of Yammuna Brindge

†1175. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of rise in water level in Yamuna in Delhi in every rainy season, the old railway bridge at Yamuna is closed and many trains are cancelled, due to which the passengers have to suffer.

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking concrete steps by Government to tackle the situation;

(c) by when Government would make concrete arrangements in the interest of common men; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The bridge is closed to traffic for periods when water level exceeds the danger mark of 204.83 Mts.

(b) and (c) A new bridge has already been sanctioned to replace the existing bridge.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional Track Between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

1176. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has revealed that there is justification to provide additional track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in view of the increasing traffic;

(b) if so, when the additional track would be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad has been completed. As per the survey report, cost of construction of the project has been assessed as Rs. 1006.73 crore with a rate of return of 7.21%. In view of saturation on this section, it has been decided to augment the line capacity on the route by adopting automatic signalling. However, in phase-I, the work of 3rd line from Surat to Kosamba has been included in the Budget, the work on which is in the planning stage.